

But what about the students?

Why are the students always the last considered?

One of the more enviable privileges of those in powerful positions at any institution is having direct lines of communication to those at the Top. They are also in a better position to be informed about the general state of affairs.

But being a student at this University, such access and knowledge is not afforded me.

Still, upon learning that President Frank Vandiver was going to deliver a State of the University address Thursday at a Brazos County A&M Club dinner, I couldn't help but ask, "What about me, Frank? What about the students, what about the faculty?" Don't we have a right to know exactly what the state of this University is?

Students and faculty are the University; without them it would never be.

Granted, the dinner was open to anyone — anyone willing to pay nine bucks, that is. But students and faculty members should not have to pay \$9 to find out what's going on at this University. After all, Reagan doesn't charge; why should Vandiver?



The point is not to attack the A&M Club or the alumni. They pledge their moral and financial support to the University, and the influential roles they play can not be denied. It's also understandable that as president, Vandiver has loyalties he must maintain. Therefore, they should be informed.

But as one of about 35,000 students who also has invested time and money in this place, I don't feel bad about demanding the same.

Furthermore, in light of the University System officials' recent sure-fire methods for bringing "pre-eminent" personnel here, it would be to their

advantage to have an informed student body and faculty. For it is essential that everyone know what is going on and why, if they are to be at all equipped to combat the barrage of negative nationwide publicity.

As it turned out, Vandiver did not even discuss this issue in his State of the University message. It's hard to accept that the events for which Texas A&M has gained nationwide notoriety has nothing to do with its general state of affairs. So then, I still ask, "What really is the state of this University?"

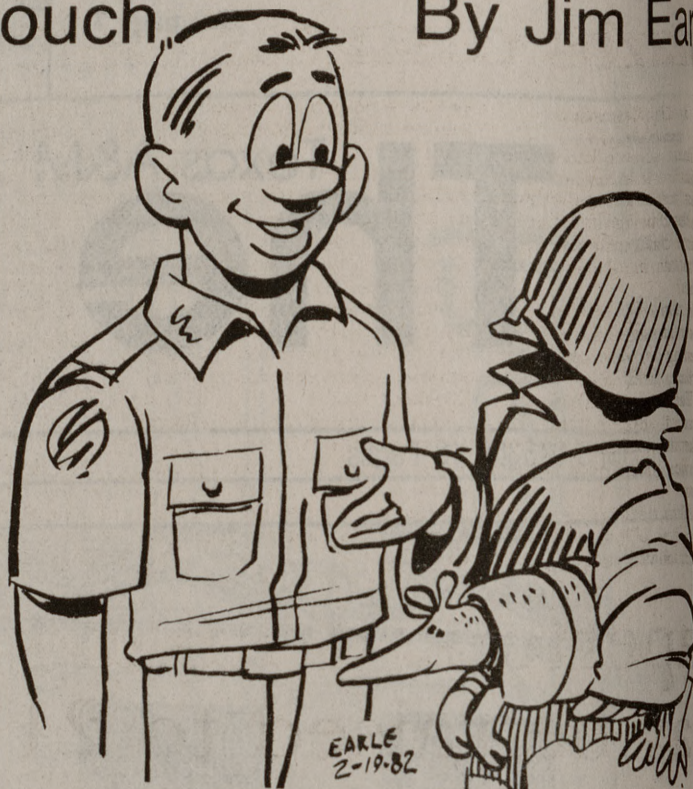
By now, everyone knows the chronology of "who done what and to whom." But, how about some explanations.

H.R. "Bum" Bright, chairman of the Board of Regents, attempted to offer some explanations in a recent guest editorial in the Houston Chronicle.

At least Bright acknowledged that not all business was usual at Texas A&M. But the column fell far short of explaining the general state of affairs.

So how about it, Frank? How about a real State of the University address — and this time, please remember the students and faculty.

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I thought of naming him Prince or Stallion, but I decided that Bobby Lee fit him better."

Pearls of wisdom

Joining our ranks today is a specialist on cliches peculiar to Texas A&M University. Dr. Noah Umore received his B.S. in Skewed English at William and Mary, his M.S. at Robert and Elizabeth, and his doctorate at, as Umore says, the "best university between Waco and Navasota." He recently has upgraded his pearls of wisdom rolling from Aggie administrators.



Me: Well, Mr. Umore, how does it feel to be back in Aggie land?

Him: Fantastic opportunity to grow, to learn, to invest.

Him: Well, back in my day, we didn't have all these pretty girls on campus, but otherwise it feels great.

Me: Invest in the future?

Him: Not only in the future, money market funds that couldn't have reached out the salaries.

Me: What makes it feel so great?

Me: Speaking of salaries, let's get out the newest, or at least the most eminent member of Texas A&M, Coach Jackie Sherrill.

Him: What makes it feel great is seeing this fine institution striving for pre-eminence, or at least being first-rate, in many departments. Yessir, being first-rate, or pre-eminent, is synonymous with attending school here.

Him: Coach Sherrill is a fine individual, and a great addition to the Family. You noticed that his hair is first try?

Me: I'm glad to hear you're fine and happy with being back. Today you said we could talk cliches, cliches that we here can call our own.

Me: Yes.

Him: Texas A&M has changed in the past decade. We went from an agricultural and mechanical college to an outstanding University, with courses ranging from agriculture to zoology.

Him: Regarding Sherrill's salary, should be noted that we had opened in a hurry in terms of takes to attract the cream of the athletic management. Good, don't come cheap, nor do cheap come cheap.

Me: What makes this an outstanding University?

Me: Nor do they leave cheap.

Him: Our striving for pre-eminence. Pre-eminence is our goal, our calling, our destiny.

Him: Yea, verily.

Me: What does pre-eminence mean for the future?

Me: Has the furor raised over Sherrill's appointment had any adverse on A&M's image?

Him: It can either be the greatest thing since sliced bread or it can be the death of us all. If we can harness its full potential, then we can become an Oxford on the Brazos. If we can't handle pre-eminence, we'll shame all the good ol' boys who came before us and worked to make this University what it is today.

Him: No, I would say our name has not been tarnished one iota. We have been the butt of jokes for years. But now the joking's over.

Me: What is it?

Me: But is the party over?

Him: It's the beginning of the beginning, a future that will outlast the past.

Him: No, but many of us are on the hill.

Me: What will be emphasized in the future?

Me: Are we as a group over the hump?

Him: Texas A&M is moving forward as fast academically as it is athletically. As I have said, our goal is to be pre-eminent in all our endeavors. And we're willing to burn the bucks to get faculty members who will appreciate the fantastic opportunities we have here.

Me: Yes, but we still enjoy hump.

Me: What kind of opportunities do we have?

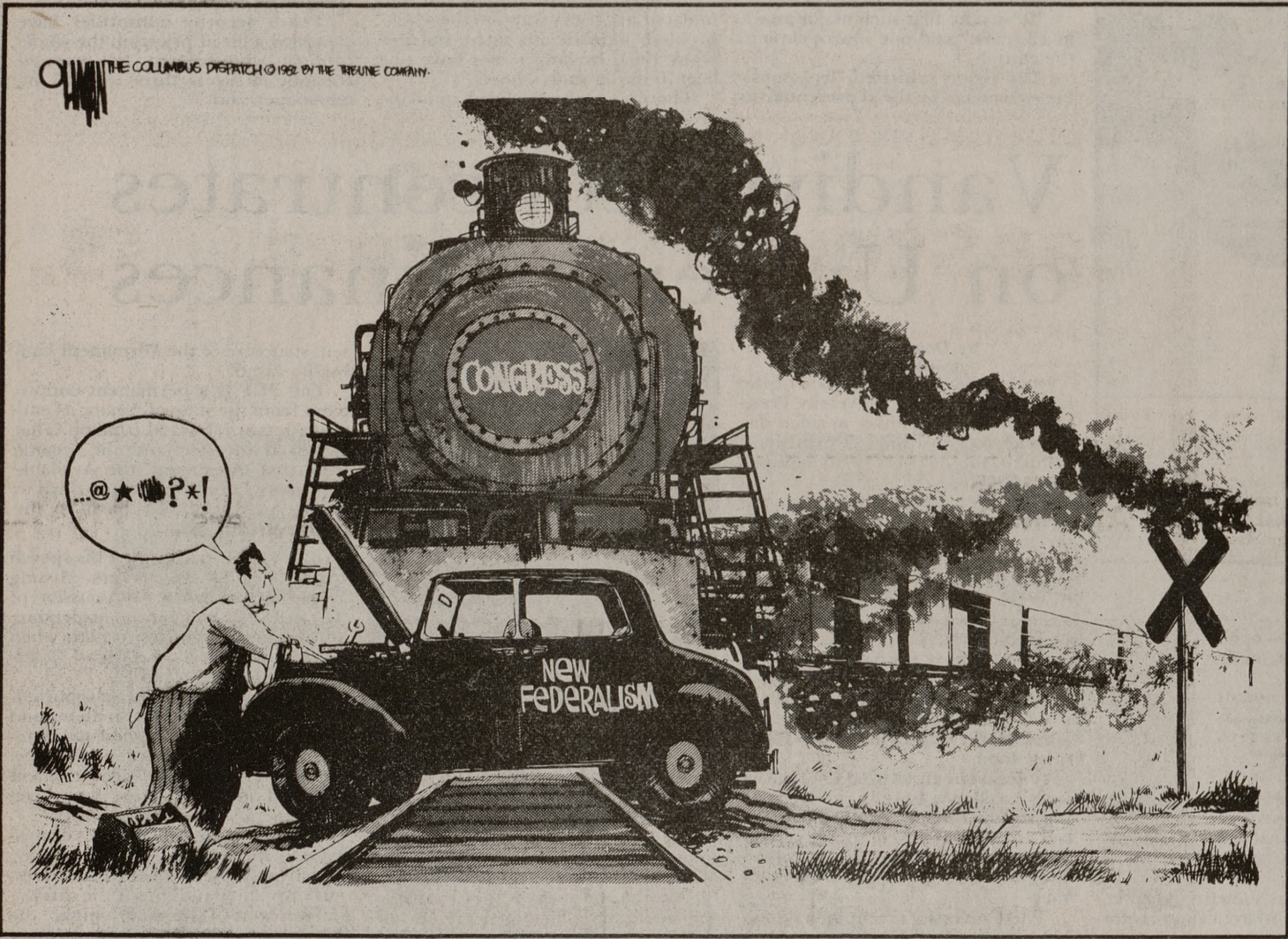
Him: Yes, that's one of the things that makes this school what it is. Traditions, this school would be proud of.

Me: Well, I think that last week up our conversation. Will you be home now?

Him: Yes, even though A&M is my heart is.

Me: Which way will you go?

Him: I haven't decided yet. My runs both ways.



Letter: A few spoil the party for all

Editor: Welcome to Russia

It is my pleasure to thank the girls' dorms of Underwood, Mosher and Krueger for throwing a party at Lakeview for the male population. I was pleased that these three dorms thought enough of us to throw this party and I hope you will do it again, but it probably won't happen because of some actions of some people at the club that night.

The reason I am writing this letter is twofold: One, to thank the girls for their hard work and consideration. And two, to explain to these girls that not all the guys were out there to get drunk and cause problems. As everyone knows by now, the party was stopped a little after midnight; it was supposed to continue for another hour. The reason it was stopped was because people were spilling beer on the dance floor, stealing pool balls and throwing them around, and starting fights. Right after a girl from one of the dorms announced that the party was over I heard three Corps members say, "Let's spill some beer on the dance floor so the girls will have to clean it up!" And they did! I also saw other Corps members throwing pool balls, taking down the Miller Beer banners, and starting fights.

I am not saying that it was only the Corps that were causing problems, but from what I saw they were the only ones. If you boys can't handle the beer, then don't drink where you will spoil someone else's fun.

I again thank the girls of those three dorms for a job well done. You will never know how much that evening was appreciated and I am sorry that a few bad apples had to spoil it for everyone!

Editor: Welcome to Russia

I am referring to a letter written by Assoc. Professor George Raczowski in The Battalion, February 16. First of all I want to agree that Russian imperialism can be alarming and they don't always appear to be totally virtuous, to put it mildly. But my response is not to debate this matter. I hope his letter gets a lot of responses.

I generally don't read many letters to the editor. It's good to have them, I know, but somewhere through the years they began to bore me. Occasionally I do bother and end up reading letters of Dr. Raczowski's type in the process. Sometimes it strikes a nerve and I want to respond but think it not worth it after awhile. But when I saw this one signed with the label, "associate professor," it got my gall too much. I'm not even going to take up for First Amendment rights. It goes beyond that. For an adult, an American, and with an education in an American institution of higher learning to boot to want to refuse a speaker, any speaker, to give his side...! Where do you think we are? Russia?

If it makes you feel better, I survived most of his attempt to brainwash me. I was even disappointed in his speech. But I really enjoyed the chance to hear his side and see him first hand. I also enjoyed hearing Richard Allen's speech, although I also survived what seemed to me an attempt by him to do some brainwashing — brainwashing I have to hear almost everyday.

I really doubt I would be extraordinarily happy in a world ruled by Russia. I

think your world could make me pretty miserable too and perhaps has.

Larry Farmer
Student, Texas A&M University

Leave me alone

Editor:

The day was beautiful, one of the few such days we've had. Groups of Aggies were lounging and relaxing by Rudder Fountain, enjoying the weather and a few minutes of conversation with friends. Suddenly, the beauty of the day was torn by the over-amplified voice of another of the religious fanatics we've all had to endure recently, who quickly related the springtime weather to "our" need to set our hearts "right" with God. Is there no escaping these obnoxious zealots? I have been approached and cornered by these people on the streets, by Rudder Fountain, in Sbis, and even in my own dorm room! Does freedom of speech mean that I must listen to any jerk who wants to scream at me through 65 watts of amplifier? I don't think so. My belief is that my rights end at the other person's face, and when others come to understand this we'll all be better off.

Until then, let this twice-accused, bound-for-hell sinner go on record now: I don't care to hear any more religious fanaticism and propaganda, and if I ever desire to be "saved" by such obviously qualified people, I will let them know.

Gabriel D. Moore '82

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